

The Virgin Islands Consortium

U.S. Attorney's Office in Virgin Islands Observes Domestic Violence Awareness Month

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The month of October is recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the United States Attorney's Office in the Virgin Islands District is joining in its observance.

United States Attorney Delia L. Smith is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Justice to honor victims and survivors of domestic violence. The tribute also extends to advocates, service providers, justice professionals, law enforcement officers, and first responders for their unwavering efforts to support survivors.

Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention highlight the alarming prevalence of such abuse, indicating that one in four women and one in seven men have

been subjected to severe physical violence by intimate partners in their lives. Furthermore, over 43 million women and 38 million men have faced psychological aggression from intimate partners. These forms of abuse leave a profound impact on victims and their families, ranging from physical injuries and mental trauma to socioeconomic setbacks, affecting housing, employment, and education sectors. The emphasis is on the collective responsibility of society to stand with survivors and work towards preventing such violence.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an opportunity for the community to unite and show solidarity with survivors, ensuring them of their unwavering support. This month is dedicated to spreading the message that violence, whether in homes, workplaces, or the broader community, will not be tolerated.

Smith commented on the issue, saying, "Domestic violence is more prevalent than many realize, and every instance is unacceptable." She continued, "Our office recognizes and appreciates the Virgin Islands Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Council and the Family Resource Center for their service to the community. The United States Attorney's Office has a duty to use all the tools at our disposal to ensure that victims have a viable path to safety and justice."

To demonstrate commitment towards ending domestic violence, the Virgin Islands Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Council urges everyone to wear purple on Thursday, October 19, 2023. Moreover, the Council has organized a Domestic Violence Awareness March and Candlelight Vigil at 5:00 p.m. on the same day, set to commence at the Emancipation Garden in St. Thomas. The community is invited to partake in this event to show their support.